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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,550	12/02/2004	Jacobus Johannes Chretien Coumans	NL 020466	8388
24737	7590	02/26/2007	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			HINES, ANNE M	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2879	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS	02/26/2007		PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/516,550	COUMANS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anne M. Hines	2879	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on November 30, 2006, has been entered and acknowledged by the Examiner.

Claims 1-8 are pending in the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kiesel et al. (US 4777404) (of record).

Regarding claim 1, Kiesel discloses an electric lamp comprising a glass lamp vessel which is closed in a gastight manner by means of a seal and which contains an electric element (2, 4, & 7; Column 2, lines 50-61), and connected to said electric element, which conductors are partly embedded in the seal and at least those portions which are in contact with the atmosphere outside the lamp are provided with means for protection against oxidation, characterized in that the means for protection against oxidation are chosen from the group of materials formed by a chromium-iron alloy (8 & 9; Column 2, lines 62-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardies (US 4015165) (of record) in view of Kiesel et al. (US 4777404) (of record).

Regarding claims 1 and 6, Hardies teaches an electric lamp comprising a glass lamp vessel which is closed in a gastight manner by means of a seal and which contains an electric element (Fig. 1, 1 & 6; Column 2, lines 47-56), and connected to said electric element, which conductors are partly embedded in the seal and at least those portions which are in contact with the atmosphere outside the lamp are provided with means for protection against oxidation and wherein the means for protection against oxidation is a coating (Fig. 1, 7; Column 2, lines 47-56; Column 1, lines 11-26). Hardies also teaches wherein the oxidation of the outer current conductors, once oxidized, no longer make a good electric contact with the connection terminals of the current source (Column 1, lines 11-15). Hardies fails to teach wherein the means for protection against oxidation is chosen from the group of materials formed by chromium-manganese, chromium cobalt, chromium-iron, and chromium-boron alloys.

In the same field of endeavor, Kiesel teaches using an iron-nickel-chromium alloy (i.e. stainless steel) as the outer current conductors of an electric lamp in order to insure reliable connections with an external voltage source (Column 2, lines 62-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Hardies to have the coating of the outer current conductors be an iron-nickel-chromium alloy in order to insure reliable connections with an external voltage source, as disclosed by Kiesel.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7-8 are allowed.

Regarding independent claim 7, the references of the Prior Art of record fail to teach or suggest the combination of the limitations as set forth in claim 7, and specifically comprising the limitation wherein current conductors are provided with a means for protection against oxidation chosen from the group of materials formed by chromium-manganese, chromium-cobalt, chromium-iron, and chromium-boron alloys, characterized in that the alloy contains 80 to 99 atom percents of chromium.

Regarding claim 8, claim 8 is allowable for the reasons given in claim 7 because of its dependency status from claim 8.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne M. Hines whose telephone number is (571) 272-2285. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2879

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Anne M Hines
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2879

WMS
MARICELI SANTIAGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER